

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----003082 231412Z /47
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3390
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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 22718

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PGOV, EG, US, IS
SUBJECT: THOUGHTS FOR SADAT ON HIS MEETING WITH BEGIN--
- VP MUBARAK ON WEIZMAN/GAMASY MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 305829, (B) CAIRO 22603

1. SINCE TODAY IS FRIDAY, THE MUSLIM SABBATH, AND SADAT IS STILL IN ISMAILIA FASTING AND RESTING, I CONCLUDED THAT THE FASTEST WAY TO GET YOUR THOUGHTS TO THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE TO CONVEY THEM TO VP MUBARAK, WHO IS HERE AND HAS CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE PRESIDENT. WAS ABLE LATE THIS MORNING MEET WITH MUBARAK AT HIS HOME IN HELIOPOLIS. TOLD HIM OF SADAT'S BRIEFING ON WEIZMAN/ GAMASY MEETING, WHICH I HAD IMMEDIATELY REPORTED. EXPLAINED THAT THE POINTS I WISHED TO CONVEY WERE OFFERED BY YOU BASED ON YOUR TALKS WITH BEGIN AND ON MY REPORT OF WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAD SAID AFTER THE WEIZMAN VISIT. I THEN WENT THROUGH THE POINTS WITH GREAT CARE.

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2. MUBARAK LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND FIRST TOOK NOTES. THEN HE ASKED THAT I GIVE HIM THE POINTS IN WRITING, SINCE HE WANTED TO BE SURE THAT SADAT GETS ALL OF THEM. I SUBSEQUENTLY DID SO IN THE FORM OF AN ORAL MESSAGE. MUBARAK SAID HE WILL SEND IT TO SADAT LATER TODAY AND WILL DISCUSS THEM WITH THE PRESIDENT WHEN HE GOES TO ISMAILIA TOMORROW FOR WHAT IS EXPECTED TO BE A PROTRACTED

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING PRIOR TO BEGIN VISIT.

3. MUBARAK THEN MADE A NUMBER OF COMMENTS ON THE WEIZMAN VISIT. HE, TOO, VOICED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT DESPITE SADAT'S BOLD STEP IN GOING TO JERUSALEM, THE ISRAELIS DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE CHANGED ANY OF THEIR BASIC PEACE CONCEPTIONS. THEY STILL THINK IN TERMS OF RETAINING TERRITORY AND SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI. THIS, SADAT COULD NOT ACCEPT AND THE PRESIDENT HAD MADE THIS VERY CLEAR TO WEIZMAN.

4. ALLUDING TO THE RAS AL NAQB AND SHEIKH AL SUWAIYID AIRFIELDS, MUBARAK SAID WEIZMAN EXPLAINED ISRAEL'S REQUEST TO RETAIN THESE, EITHER THROUGH LEASE OR REDEMARCATON OF BORDERS, IN TERMS OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF ISRAELI AIRCRAFT STATIONED THERE. WEIZMAN ARGUED THAT ISRAEL HAS SO MANY AIRCRAFT IN ITS INVENTORY THAT IT NEEDS THESE TWO AIRFIELDS. MUBARAK CLAIMS THAT HE COUNTERED BY SUGGESTING, AS A FORMER EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER, THAT HE WAS SURE THESE AIRCRAFT COULD BE REDEPLOYED TO OTHER AIRFIELDS IN ISRAEL. HE ALSO SAID TO WEIZMAN THAT HE KNOWS WHAT THE ISRAELIS ARE TRYING TO DO. THEY WANT NO EGYPTIAN AIRFIELDS IN SINAI, BUT WANT TO RETAIN RAS AL NAQB AND SHEIKH AL SUWAIYID AIRFIELDS, BOTH LOCATED ON THE BORDERS, IN ORDER TO DOMINATE MILITARILY EGYPTIAN TERRITORY. THIS WAS
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UNACCEPTABLE. MUBARAK ADDED THAT IT WAS HE WHO SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO AIRFIELDS BE "PLOWED UP."

5. MUBARAK ALSO SAID HE SOUGHT TO IMPRESS UPON WEIZMAN THAT ANY ISRAELI RETENTION OF THESE AIRFIELDS AND OF THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI WILL CAUSE GREAT PROBLEMS FOR SADAT AT HOME AND IN THE ARAB WORLD. THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY, MUBARAK INSISTED, WILL RECOGNIZE SUCH A SITUATION FOR WHAT IT IS AND WILL NEVER ACCEPT IT. IT WILL "RAISE HELL" FOR SADAT WITH THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY AND WITH THE "COMMUNIST" ELEMENTS IN EGYPT WHO ARE ALREADY PUTTING IT ABOUT THAT SADAT PLANS TO SURRENDER EGYPTIAN TERRITORY. SADAT'S ARAB CRITICS OUTSIDE EGYPT WILL ALSO USE SUCH A RELINQUISHMENT OF TERRITORY TO PILLORY SADAT AND HIS INTENTIONS. WHILE CLAIMING TO UNDERSTAND THE EGYPTIAN CONCERNS, WEIZMAN ARGUED THE POINT IN TERMS OF NEEDING SOMETHING OF THIS SORT TO ASSURE THE ISRAELI PUBLIC THAT ITS SECURITY REQUIREMENTS ARE BEING MET. MUBARAK ECHOED SADAT'S COMMENT THAT ISRAELI SECURITY REQUIREMENTS ARE RECOGNIZED BY GOE, BUT MUST BE MET IN SOME OTHER WAY THAN THROUGH THE RETENTION OF EGYPTIAN TERRITORY.

6. MUBARAK SAID THE PRESIDENT'S SPIRITS WERE VERY LOW AFTER WEIZMAN LEFT. IN SPEAKING TO MUBARAK ALONE, SADAT WONDERED WHETHER HIS TRIP TO JERUSALEM MIGHT AFTER ALL HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE. DESPITE ALL ISRAELI TALK ABOUT WANTING PEACE, AND THE GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS THAT WERE ESTABLISHED DURING THE JERUSALEM VISIT WITH ISRAELI LEADERS LIKE BEGIN, WEIZMAN AND DAYAN, THEY HAD STILL NOT OUTGROWN THEIR OLD PERCEPTIONS. IF THIS IS THE LINE

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

BEGIN INTENDS TO TAKE, SADAT HAD MUSED, PROSPECTS OF ACHIEVING ANYTHING DURING HIS TALKS WITH BEGIN ARE SLIM.

7. MUBARAK SAID HE TRIED TO CHEER THE PRESIDENT. HE HAD ARGUED THAT THE POSITIONS ADVANCED BY WEIZMAN WERE SIMPLY A BARGAINING EFFORT. SADAT SHOULD SEE THEM IN THAT LIGHT AND BE PREPARED TO BARGAIN JUST AS STRONGLY. THE ISRAELIS, MUBARAK HAD NOTED, ARE ALWAYS LIKE THAT. HE HAD REMINDED THE PRESIDENT OF THE SINAI I AND II NEGOTIATIONS. MUBARAK WAS PLEASED THAT YOUR OBSERVATIONS ARE CONSISTENT WITH HIS OWN APPROACH. HE SAID HE WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE AN UPBEAT POSITION IN ORDER TO BUCK UP THE PRESIDENT FOR WHAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE DIFFICULT TALKS ON SUNDAY. BUT HE COULD ONLY HOPE THAT BEGIN WILL INDEED BE FLEXIBLE AND WILL WANT TO TAKE SADAT'S VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT, AS WE SAY. IF HE FAILS TO DO SO, IT WILL BE A SERIOUS SETBACK FOR PEACE PROSPECTS.

8. MUBARAK CONFIRMED THAT THE WEST BANK/GAZA DID NOT
ARISE DURING THE WEIZMAN/GAMASY TALKS. THE TALKS FOCUSED
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETINGS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 12/23/77, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PEACE TALKS, SINAI, PROGRE SS REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO22718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: I
Expiration:
Film Number: N770009-0506
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771223/aaaaastt.tel
Line Count: 180
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 305829, 78 CAIRO 22603, 77 STATE 305829, 77 CAIRO 22603
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 141318
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THOUGHTS FOR SADAT ON HIS MEETING WITH BEGIN-- - VP MUBARAK ON WEIZMAN/GAMASY MEETING
TAGS: PGOV, EG, US, IS, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE TEL AVIV MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1ac7cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009